<u>REMARKS</u>

This Supplemental Amendment adds new Claims 148 to 155. Thus, Claims 126 to 130, 132, 134 to 140, 142, 144, 145, and 147 to 155 are pending in the application. Claims 126, 136, 147, 148, 154 and 155 are the independent claims. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

New independent Claim 148 is directed to an image management apparatus for managing image data items respectively belonging to hierarchically-constructed directories. The apparatus includes first dividing means for dividing a display area into parent areas respectively associated with parent directories in a hierarchically same level, and second dividing means for dividing each of the parent areas into child areas respectively associated with child directories in a hierarchically highest level of child directories, when the parent directory has any child directories. The apparatus also includes display control means for controlling to display reduced images of image data items belonging to the parent directory as child data items of the parent directory and reduced images of image data items belonging to the child directory as child data items of the child directory in the parent or child areas of a display screen respectively associated with the parent or child directories in which the image data items belong.

New independent Claims 154 and 155 are directed to a method and a computer-readable storage medium, respectively, substantially in accordance with the apparatus of Claim 148.

By virtue of the arrangement in Claims 148, 154 and 155, display areas of child directories are positioned in a display area of a parent directory in a nested relationship, and reduced images of image data items belonging to each directory as a child

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of the directory are displayed in a display area of the directory on a display screen. One example of this arrangement is shown in Applicants' Figure 17.

In contrast, the art of record is not seen to disclose or suggest the features set out in Claims 148, 154 and 155.

In particular, as seen by Applicants, Perlin only discloses enlarging an area of part of a document on the "Pad" surface.

Enokida, for its part, is seen to display a separate window for each directory, including (if applicable) files or subdirectories which belong to that directory. In this regard, as understood by Applicants, Enokida does not disclose a windowing with a nested relationship between parent and child directories and data items. Thus, for example, in Enokida's a window of a child directory is displayed only when that child directory is opened from a display of the parent directory. See, e.g., Enokida, Figure 5.

Entry of this Supplemental Amendment and passage to allowance are respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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